

THE *of Rodd*
PROPHECIE

Of one of His

Majesties Chaplains,

Concerning the
Plague and Black-patches:

With Mr. Gadburies happy and joy-
ful Predictions, for the Decrease of the Plague both in City
and Suburbs; The Time when; The Manner how; by God's
Permission, and according to Natural Causes; The Effects and
Motion of the Planets, and what every Week may produce for
the thrice-happy and welcome Abatement of this sad and
dismal Pestilence; and the City of London to be wholly ac-
quit thereof about [or before] Christmas.



London, Printed for G. Horton, 1665.



The Prophecie of one of His Majesties Chaplains, concerning the Plague, and Black-Patches.



Although after several evil *Aspects*, and Malevolent Conjunctions of the Planets, after bad Constitutions of the Air, and distemper of the Weather, after dearth of Corn, and scarcity of Provision, whereby the humors of Mens Bodies have been corrupted, and several Diseases have sprung up yet no Plague hath followed; and on the contrary, though after the signs of healthy Seasons, plenty of good and wholesome Diet, yea and after a most cold and dry Winter, and in a dry and temperate Summer, the Plague hath risen up and spread abroad; yet most commonly there have been some Tokens, Signs, and Fore-runners of it, which have given men an Alarm to prepare for it, expect it, and provide against it. From whence also is observable the Causes producing it; Such as are the Position of the Heavens and the Conjunction of Mars and Saturn; as the Learned Mr. Gadbury hath most judiciously set forth in those Memorable Predictions hereunto annexed. But first the Reader may be pleased to observe, the Signs imminent and approaching of great Mortality; Mr. Kelway in the third Chapter of his Treatise of the Plague printed at London 1593. hath these words:

When we see young Children joyn themselves together in Companies, and then within some of their Company to be dead amongst them, and so will plennize the Buriall in an instant; this is a token which hath been well observed in our Age to fore-shew great Mortality at hand. And 'tis worthy of serious consideration, that about 20 years ago, one of the Chaplains of his late Majesty King Charles the First of ever blessed memory, did preach at Bristol upon this Text out of Gen 4. 15. *And the Lord set a mark upon Cain;* And in his Sermon did speak much against black-patches and beauty-spots; and, among other things, said, that they were Fore-runners of other Spots, and Marks of the Plague; and presently, within a very little while after, the Plague brake out among them, and all those persons that did wear them, fled the Town. And when St. Andrews Church yard Wall did break or fall down this last Winter, some there were that did prognosticate the coming of the Plague, saying, *It fell in like manner the last great Sicknes in 1625. but what reason they had to say so, is best known to themselves.*

Yet true it is, that this black and dismal Cloud was fore-seen and predicted by that great *Artist in Astrologie* Mr. John Gadbury, in his *Ephemeris* for the present year 1665. in the Moneth of April, at which time the Sicknes first began to shew it self visible; notwithstanding it took its Rise at Christmas, he himself being visited at that time.

And though the Plague cometh unawares, and seizeth upon a man on a suddain, yet such is the infinite mercy of God, and the providence of Nature, that it giveth alwayes warning enough to any one that will diligently observe it.

The warnings are either a suddain Head-ache, a Vomiting, or a Faintness, with a Chills, or a Loosenesse. Each of these Symptom e-sheweth, what part of the body hath been first infected; the Head-ache signifies the Brains; the Vomiting the Liver; the Faintness the Heart; and the Loosenesse the Stomach and the Gut.

When therefore any one upon a sudden and without evident cause, findeth himself seized with either of these 4 Symptomes, let him fly to Remedies without the losse of a moment of time: For it is one of the easiest Diseases in the World to be cured, if it be

Be taken within 4 hours after the first Invasion; otherways, and for the most part mortal. Now as soon as one findeth himself stricken with any of the foresaid Symptomes, let him presently repair to a clean and warm room, and kindle a wood-fire in the Chimny, to consume and destroy all the infectious vapours, that proceed both from the Air, and the infected party: Let the Patient presently be put into a warm bed, wrapped in a sheet and blanket; & then sweat him well, by giving the party some *Venice-Treacle*; and those that have contracted the Plague by a Frigate, put a little Saffron into it. *Venice-Treacle* being taken in time, is the onely *Antidote* against all Plagues and Poisons whatsoever.

Vinegar is a most excellent *Antidote* against the Plague, and to drink 2 or 3 Spoonfulls in a Morning is very good. Hence 'tis, that Physicians to suppress and take away the fiery Venome of *Spurge, Laurel, Mezereon*, and other Plants, steep them in Vinegar, and so give them safely to their Patients, whereas otherwise they would kill and be a worse Remedy than the Disease. And *Dioscorides* saith that it resists all poysons both hot and cold. And *Christoph. a Vega* tells of one that was strangled with a Rope, and did foam about the Mouth, and yet was recovered by drinking Vinegar.

Coffee is commended against the Contagion; and moderate exercise; be sure to prevent costiveness, and violent passions: Sleep moderately, and after you are up uncover your bed, and open the Curtains to air it, and have the bed well shaken when it is made, for Damps are very dangerous.

To go forth with an empty Stomach is unwholesome; bread dipt in Vinegar is very good; but the best Breakfast against the Contagion is Bisket and Raisins.

And as the great Causes of this particular Pest were the Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter Octob. 10. 1663. the Conjunction of Saturn and Mars Nov. 12. 1664. so also are they chief Causes powerfully impelling, that it is to be feared the Pestilence we now partake of, will not be the one misery of the Effects thence to ensue, or thereon depending. By this connexion of Causes, it is somewhat apparent that this Pest should have took its beginning at the latter end of 1664. and truly had not the Winter then been so extremely sharp (it having a Frost of almost ten weeks continuance

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together) to have kept it back, it had beyond all question broke forth then. Nay, and break forth it did then too, as the Learned Artift in *Astrologie* Mr. Gadbury, can experimentally teftifie, having been personally vifited with it at *Chriftmas* that year. And many other Patients of Mr. *Jofias Westwood* the Chirurgeon, were then alfo afflicted with the fame Diftemper, and yet obtained cure againft it, the Air being then fo friendly to Nature, and an Enemy unto the *Peftilence*. But now let us confider its progress and increafe, with the caufes thereof, and the poffibility of its abatement; with the time when. In this matter I fhall confult, but not trouble you with the Figure of the *Suns* Ingreff into the Equinoctial Sign *Aries*, for the year 1665. and thence draw down the feveral Arguments of increafe and abatement; and becaufe the *Peftilence* was hardly perceptible untill the Month of *June*, I will begin there.

This Month, (as if God and Nature had appointed the Sicknefs to be *Ominous* in earnest to thefe Nations) we may obferve two moft fatal *transits* to usher it in, *viz.* *Mars* his then coming to the oppofite point of the *Ascendant*, and the *Sun* to the oppofite point of *Saturn*; a beginning of a ficknefs fo mifchievous, that greater can hardly be; God grant the end be not as *inauspicious*; and although (I prefume) it will not be of many Months continuance to this great City, yet we are not to fuppofe a *Peftilence* ended, when it feemingly acquits one place.

In the month of *July* it began to increafe confiderably, efpecially toward the latter end thereof: there were then fix oppofitions of the Erratick Stars, and two Eclipses; and to add to thefe, *Mars*, *Venus*, and *Mercury*, then came to the *Quadrant* place of the *Sun*, and to the oppofite point of *Saturn* by tranfit; and the *Sun* then came to the oppofition of *Jupiter* both by tranfit and afpect: all which were very great arguments of its increafe.

In the Month of *Aug.* *Saturn* comes to the *Quadrant* place of the *Sun*, and will be ftationary upon it the Month; the two Eclipses laft Month do now begin to operate, which are teftimonies of very great augmentation: howbeit the fortunate Planet *Venus* coming to the *Sextile* of her own place and of the *Moon*, at the beginning of the Month; and coming to a *Trine* of the *Sun*, the latter end thereof, may fo happily temper the fury of it, that it may not [now] increafe or augment to any exceeding great height.

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A part of *Septem.* is like to prove fomewhat dangerous, becaufe *Saturn* is in a manner ftationary, and the *Sun* and *Saturn* then come to a *Quadrant* afpect, and this in all points of the *Vernal Figure*, *Mars* and *Jupiter* who is *Dominus Ascendentis* then alfo come to an oppofition, and both in fquare of *Luna's* place; whence it is probable, that in the fecond and laft weeks of this Month, the *Peft* may admit of an abatement; but indeed, I much fear about the middle of the month an increafe confiderable: nevertheless, I hope, and rationally believe (*favente Deo*) that this *Peftilence* cannot afcend to any higher degree, than it may at that time reach unto.

The Month of *October* feems to promife well, and the *Diftemper* therein cannot meet with any eminent caufe for augmentation: yet I fuppofe the fecond and laft week will make fome flight Offers at an increafe, becaufe then the *Sun* comes to the oppofite place of the *Moon*; and *Venus* hath a progrefional motion to the oppofition of the *Sun*, and *Quartile* of *Saturn's* places.

November and *December* in this refpect (God not frustrating the courfe of fecond Caufes, or taking advantage of us for our fins) I queftion not will prove very kindly; and the City of *London* will begin to be in a better heart, than in many Moneths before. Howbeit, it cannot be fuppofed, that this *Peftilence* fhould in fo fhort a time totally vanifh; or that fo great a Sicknefs fhould not leave fome unkind impreffions behind it; but in comparifon of what it hath been, I dare afert, that we fhall [then] be (in a manner) wholly acquitted from it, and its violent raging; destructive Qualities and Company.

Laftly, *London* hath at prefent been the Patient, and hath felt the force of the Almightyes charge to purpofe; while moft other places of *England* have efaped the *Lafh*. I wifh with all my foul, that *London* might be the Scape-Goat for them all: but ah, I fear, that before the Planet *Saturn* be gotten quite out of *Capricorn*, that the other parts of this Nation will drink deep of the fame Cup. God and Nature punifh none by proxy. It will not be this Cities fufferings, that can excufe other Towns and Cities, from the violent ftrake of fo infatiate an Enemy. Thus much for the Predictions of the Learned Gadbury.

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And now the great and principal *Antidote* against the *Plague* is, hearty Repentance and fervent Prayer: For Prayer upon Repentance is of all things most powerful with God; And as Faith is the best Fence against Fear, so is Patience the best Plaster against Sores: Let the distrust of God's Mercies be far from you; and arise from Sin willingly: Read in the Bible daily; take up the Crosse of Christ boldly, and stand to it manfully, bearing all Visitations patiently; pray continually, Rest thankfully, and thou shalt live everlastingly, and come to the Hill of Joy quickly: To which place hasten us good Lord speedily.

FINIS.
